

# The Sun

WILLIAM M. LAFAN.

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## The Programme of Constitutional Amendment.

Let us suppose, for the sake of the supposition, that the Republican party now commits itself in earnest to the policy of trust repression through a Constitutional amendment investing the Federal Government with direct power over business industry within the States.

A resolution proposing such an amendment was prepared two years ago and introduced into the House of Representatives. It was powerfully advocated there by the Hon. CHARLES E. LITTLEFIELD of Maine. More than that, the resolution was actually reported by the Committee on the Judiciary and received the favoring votes of not less than 154 members of the House, all but six of them being Republicans. This resolution starting the Constitutional amendment would have passed the House at that time if a majority vote had been sufficient to pass it and a two-thirds vote had not been required. It would have been adopted at that time, however, not with any expectation of amending the Constitution, but for political humbug only, that is, to head off the Democrats on this issue in the Presidential campaign then about to begin.

It was a crude and dishonest political trick, but that is of no particular consequence at present. Suppose the enterprise should be resumed at the next session of the Fifty-seventh Congress, this time in good faith and with a serious purpose to put the amendment through and thus to get at the trusts.

If such should become the deliberate intention of the Republican party, a resolution similar to that of 1900 could be passed in the House with little delay and perhaps after only a perfunctory discussion of the principles involved, provided about forty Democrats were persuaded to join the United Republican membership in order to secure the necessary two-thirds of the House. Let us suppose that this could be done. The progress of the resolution through the House would undoubtedly be facilitated by the mere circumstance of the bundle vote of two years ago. One hundred and forty-eight Republican members have already committed themselves by their votes on June 1, 1900, to such a resolution. If the majority should now favor it solidly, and the number of Democratic auxiliaries should be increased from the six of two years ago to the forty now needed, the resolution would pass the House at the next session. It would then go to the Senate.

That it could be passed in the Senate before the adjournment of the Fifty-seventh Congress on March 4, 1903, there is no reason to believe. Even under the most urgent pressure from the Executive, a project so radical, so far-reaching, so portentous of immeasurable changes in the fabric of our institutions, is bound to receive in the Senate the most deliberate consideration. The Constitutional amendment would be scrutinized in that body from every point of view. Its supposed urgency as a measure for the immediate repression of the trusts would not prevent the most exhaustive discussion. The Democratic Senators, who are ever watchful of any proposed invasion of the reserved rights of the States, could and would prevent action on the resolution before March 4, even if every Republican Senator had made up his mind to vote for it. There would be no such Republican unanimity for the resolution; that is certain. But if it were not certain, the resolution would not be less doomed to failure in the present Senate, where, as in the House, a two-thirds vote is necessary.

Therefore, under the most favorable circumstances reasonably conceivable, the Fifty-seventh Congress would expire next March without having completed the preliminary legislation required before the proposed amendment can be submitted to the States for their ratification.

Meanwhile, there will have occurred the election of an entire House of Representatives, and of several members of the Senate. One of three things must happen: First, Republican gains so extensive as to give that party a clear two-thirds majority in both House and Senate; secondly, a Democratic success giving the Democrats control of the House, but not of the Senate; and, thirdly, a practical continuation of the present political status in both Houses.

In the first case—a contingency which may be regarded as the least probable of all—the preliminary resolution might be put through the House and Senate either at an extra session called for the purpose by the President, or some time at the first regular session, that is to say, in the early months of 1904. The question would then be taken out of national politics before the beginning of the Presidential campaign of that year; a result which Mr. Roosevelt doubtless ardently desires, knowing as he must the disastrous effect of prolonged agitation on these lines upon the business prosperity of the country. But this relatively prompt disposition of the matter can be expected only in case the promoters of the amendment secure at once the necessary two-thirds majority in both House and Senate. Hence, it can hardly be said to be within the range of reasonable expectation.

In the second case, namely, that of a Democratic tidal wave this fall giving that party control of the Fifty-eighth House, the passage of a resolution submitting a Constitutional amendment

would be postponed for at least two years. The Democracy has its own plans for reaching the trusts. If it gains a position of advantage in the House, it will never lend itself, or any considerable part of its membership, to the promotion of a Republican party measure, whatever of that sort might happen while it remains in an irresponsible minority in that body.

The other and more probable supposition is that this fall's elections will leave the two parties in Congress in their present relation. In that case, supposing as before that the amendment resolution had passed the Fifty-seventh House and failed in the Senate, it would have to be passed anew in the House at the session beginning next December and go again to the Senate, some time in the winter or spring of 1904. The slow process of discussion and propaganda would be resumed in Congress, under somewhat less favorable conditions. The Presidential campaign of 1904 would then be about to begin. It is a truism to say that the measure could not possibly at such a time command the Democratic help needed to enact it. After the election, when the Fifty-eighth Congress met in December, 1904, for its second session, the case might be different. The anti-trust Democrats, defeated in the elections of November, 1904, and hopeless of any opportunity to deal with the question in their own way, might then be willing to assist in putting the Constitutional amendment resolution through Congress.

About the first of March, 1905, is therefore the earliest date at which, with the most favorable circumstances conceivable, the amendment resolution might be passed in the House and the most rapid progress in the formation of favoring sentiment, we can reasonably imagine the amendment resolution as receiving the President's signature and becoming law.

But that does not enact the amendment itself. It merely submits the same to the States for ratification. The Legislatures of thirty-four States, or Constitutional conventions in thirty-four States, as the joint resolution of Congress may propose, must ratify before the amendment becomes a part of the United States Constitution.

How much time would be consumed by the process of ratification? We may form some idea from the record of past experience. The table here subjoined shows in each case the date of enactment by Congress, the date of Executive promulgation as having been ratified by the necessary number of States, and the interval between the two dates indicating the time required for the process:

Under the Constitutional amendment then completed, the Fifty-ninth Congress, in the winter and spring of 1907, would be enabled to take up the practical question of legislation.

We presume that these are the considerations which have led that Republican pioneer in thought concerning trust-repression, that earnest and uncompromising advocate of restriction by Federal law, the Hon. CHARLES E. LITTLEFIELD of Maine, to abandon and publicly renounce his former belief that the way to reach the trusts is through an amendment of the United States Constitution.

This shows that the average time between the enactment of the resolution by Congress and the completion of the process of amendment has been twenty months and fifteen days. Supposing that the resolution of Congress was adopted on March 1, 1905, and that average speed was made by the States in the ratification of the Sixteenth or anti-trust amendment, that momentous change in the fundamental law and in the genius of our American institutions would be consummated, at the earliest, on Nov. 16, 1906.

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**The Silver Money of Mexico.**  
 The Mexican Herald, the excellent paper printed in English at the capital of Mexico, corrects the assumption of many of our journals that President DIAZ is timidly avoiding a plain and easy duty in not establishing the gold standard and getting rid of the unstable silver currency from which Mexico is now suffering.

"It is not quite so simple a thing" to do as these American writers suppose, the Mexican Herald explains. "The loss and the annoyance incident to the fluctuations of the silver peso, which the rest of the world persists in treating like mere ordinary bullion," our contemporary and a very great part of the Mexicans acknowledge and deplore. The wage-earning and salaried classes are "pinched badly by the sliding-off process that is going on in the purchasing power of the dollar," and "the railway corporations, with gold interest to meet abroad, with supplies to buy on a gold basis," are in the same fix.

Why, then, does not President DIAZ proceed to adopt the gold standard at once? Powerful interests in Mexico entitled to consideration by the Government believe that they would suffer from a change to the gold standard, and the President must move cautiously:

It is that in due time Mexico will array itself with the enlightenment of civilization in adopting the gold standard, and that the present delay is only a proof of the careful preparation President DIAZ is making before he takes that important step. "Much goes on behind the tranquil front of the Government of which the public know nothing."

**Three-Cent Tom Under Canvas.**

At Lorain to-morrow the Hon. TOM LOFTIS JOHNSON begins his great circus campaign. Ten wagons, twenty "experienced canvassers," the Three-Cent gospel tent, which holds 3,500 persons, and his fast automobile are with him. Johnson buttons by the bushel will be distributed. Three-Cent Tom is a candidate for Governor in 1903 and for President in 1904. Meanwhile, he will be on permanent exhibition.

The speech which he made at his Democratic State Convention Wednesday shows that he is the fittest heir of Mr. BRYAN. He is the greatest all-around anti-monopolist in the Democratic party. He proposes to "sweep monopolies from the statute books of the people." He finds the money question "a dead issue," and although a gold man he lauds the "free silver fight" as "the first great protest of the American people against monopolies." He is an anti-imperialist because he is an anti-monopolist and "there would be no subject colonies if colonies could give no monopoly franchises." Having got as rich out of monopoly franchises as he needs to be, he has become the burliest spouter against them. He is against them all, State, national or severely local. Is there any other Democrat who can compete with Tom as a universal anti-monopolist?

With his money, his alert intelligence, his adaptability, his quick eye for effect, his ample figure, his melodramatic pose, his readiness to avail himself of humbug without being its dupe, his love of novelty, his continuous good humor and unfailing "cheek," TOM JOHNSON is one of the liveliest politicians in the world. As a stage star and calcium-light man he has hardly a rival. If he is Mr. BRYAN's accepted successor in the part of the leading man in the War against Wealth, the show may be better than ever.

**The Trouble with the Play, not the Performer.**

The responsibility for the accident at Pittsfield whereby the President's life was put in danger and the Secret Service attendant was killed, was settled upon the motorman in charge of the trolley car the moment after Mr. ROOSEVELT had picked himself up and completed his short and indignant conversation with him. "I had the right of way," said the motorman, "You had a right to look out for yourself."

In this country the rules of the road are superior to any person, however high in office. But the fault of the motorman's theory was that, according to the rules of the road, he was wrong. He came up from behind; he was the "overtaking ship." Under these circumstances running into the President's carriage partook practically of wanton arrogance, even if the car had for the moment got beyond control. Coming up behind a vehicle at a speed where, if it turned slightly from its path, an accident would be inevitable, is forbidden to any trolley man.

It is not to be supposed that the motorman in this case, MADDEN, was maliciously indifferent to the rights of those with whom he collided. Probably he had got into his head the perverted notion that, being in charge of a public car, he had the right of way over a private carriage. The law does not discriminate in that manner. It is founded on principles of justice and safety. Before the law a carriage is as good as a car; a man is as good as a corporation.

**Bad Business.**

It has been the universal public practice in this country to encourage business, to treat it considerately and in a manner friendly and helpful. President CANTOR, however, the leader of the opposition to a grant to the Pennsylvania railroad to enter this city, is striving for another policy, although the enterprise he opposes would be of scarcely equalled public advantage, and completed at an immense cost.

President CANTOR and his friends refuse to give the necessary license, except upon the very last concession to which he thinks the railroad can be driven to submit. In our opinion, this is very bad business.

The Hon. JIM TILMAN, Lieutenant-Governor of South Carolina, is a singular person. He attributes his defeat for the Democratic nomination for Governor to the Hon. N. C. GONZALES, editor of the Columbia State, and offers to resign if Mr. GONZALES will "face to face" and man to man call him a blackguard or a coward. Now, plenty of other folks have called Mr. TILMAN by such endearing names and to his face, and he has been as meek as a spring lamb. It makes all the difference in the world to Mr. TILMAN who the name caller is. Most Palmetto editors and politicians have the privilege of calling him what they please, but Mr. GONZALES has a peculiarly irritating effect on Jumping Jim's nerves. It is hard to understand why a man who has been "called out of his name" so frequently should be eager for more.

If the kind-hearted people, or a few of them, who contribute funds to the Gerry society, were to visit the society's new court, hear the cases and mark the decisions, they would probably come to the conclusion that the Gerry society is in reality an establishment for cruelty to children. Let us take the first case, as reported in THE SUN. ANNE, HEARNS and GEORGE KESINGTON, aged 1 and 4 years, were brought before his Honor, Justice OLMDIST, for "picking up garbage in Gansvoort Market," which in reality means picking crumbs out of barrels, no uncommon crime in New York, unfortunately. The case was adjourned until the Gerry agent who arrested them could decide whether their parents were fit to have them or not.

Another child was kidnapped and found guilty of the horrible crime of possessing 600 pennies, clearly a case of dumb luck at craps according to the holy agent. The

case was adjourned. It was altogether too serious an affair to be dealt with off-hand.

Four small boys were charged with sleeping in the first degree; in ordinary terms they were caught snoozing "under the arches of the Brooklyn Bridge."

Some wretches who dared to play baseball were promptly disposed of. "Finley," to quote from the report, two pretty and well-dressed children appeared. They were MARGARET KELLY, aged 12, and DOROTHY KELLY, aged 7. Their father was a jeweler and was represented in court by a lawyer, who denounced the action of the society in this case as outrageous, and demanded the children's release.

Briefly, the ruling of his Honor was, "Not much!" The father was not allowed to speak to his children in the court room, and his Honor handed them over to the kind care of the society.

There were many other cases of a somewhat similar nature, and the parting scenes in the court were heartrending. And so the thing goes on.

A curious show is now appearing to small houses on the Illinois circuit. It is preceded by this advertisement:

"Senator WILLIAM F. MASON, Illinois' favorite son, will soon visit your town. Kindly invite all the neighbors for miles around and give him a grand welcome, not be one of our nation's best men. Be sure and bring the big and little kids, mothers, wives, sweethearts, brothers and sisters, and we will have a 'hot time' when BILLIE MASON comes to town."

Unfortunately the people are much less cordial than the advertisements. The "hot time" turns out to be decidedly cool, and the welcome to one of the nation's best men is far from grand. This is to be regretted. Mr. MASON stands high as an entertainer.

Never did a challenger come, see and surrender quicker than Mr. JOHN A. DRAKE, the owner of Savable. He won't make the match to which he invited all contemporary owners. All the same, it won't do to decry Savable. He won the Futurity.

**THE MINERS AND POLITICS.**

An Ex-Coal Heaver on the Delusions Imposed on the Strikers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Much prominence has recently been given to the miners' strike. The miners' strike is a very old story, and has been going on for many years. It is a story of the struggle between the miners and the coal owners for the right to work for their own benefit. The miners are a brave and hardworking people, and they deserve the right to work for their own benefit. The coal owners are a greedy and selfish class, and they are determined to keep the miners in a state of poverty and dependence.

As it appears to an ex-miner who has been in the coal mines for many years, the miners' strike is a very old story, and has been going on for many years. It is a story of the struggle between the miners and the coal owners for the right to work for their own benefit. The miners are a brave and hardworking people, and they deserve the right to work for their own benefit. The coal owners are a greedy and selfish class, and they are determined to keep the miners in a state of poverty and dependence.

Since that time their hopes have been constantly raised by reports from the leaders that they were on the verge of winning concessions from the operators and yet, notwithstanding the declaration of District President Nichols made prior to the strike, the miners have been disappointed. The miners are a brave and hardworking people, and they deserve the right to work for their own benefit. The coal owners are a greedy and selfish class, and they are determined to keep the miners in a state of poverty and dependence.

It is not to be supposed that the miners are a lawless and lawless class. They are a brave and hardworking people, and they deserve the right to work for their own benefit. The coal owners are a greedy and selfish class, and they are determined to keep the miners in a state of poverty and dependence.

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## MEDIAN AGE OF OUR POPULATION.

That of the Whites Has Increased 5.4 Years Since 1810.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4.—The Census Bureau to-day issued a bulletin showing the increasing age of the population of the continental United States. The bulletin says that in a former publication this increase was shown for the period from 1880 to 1900 by computing the average age of the population, and showed that in 1880 the average was 24.6 years; in 1890, it was 25.3 years and in 1900, 23.3 years. As the ages of the population were not reported by single years prior to 1880, this method of measurement cannot be applied to the results of earlier censuses.

Another method of computing the age of a large population is by the use of the median instead of the average in its ordinary form. The median age may be computed with close accuracy for a population, the ages of which are reported only by five-year periods, or the assumption that the population within the five-year group containing the median was distributed among the five years in the proportion which prevailed in the same age group in 1900. With this assumption it has been possible to obtain the median age of the population of the United States for censuses prior to 1880, and a table has been compiled showing this increase in ten-year periods.

The table shows that there was an increase in the median age of the white population of the United States during each decade from 1810 to 1900, amounting in the ninety years to 24 years, or an average amount of about five-sixths of a year in a decade. The median age of the colored population, including negroes, Indians and Mongolians, increased after 1850, but with less regularity. The median age for 1850 and 1860 being the same and that for 1870 and 1880 being lower than that for 1870 and 1880 being higher than that for 1880. The median age for the colored population has been affected by the serious commission of the court of the colored population of that year.

The median age of the colored population increased 3.6 years in the seventy-year period from 1830 to 1900, or only about half as fast as that of the whites. But during the last twenty years of the century the increase for the two groups has been steadily the same, the colored population increasing 2.1 years for the whites.

The most marked increase in the median age of the whites was in the decade 1880 and 1890, a period in which the colored population did not rise. The change was probably due to the influx in that decade of large numbers of adult immigrants, raising the median age.

Many complex influences have cooperated in producing as a resultant this steady change in the age composition of the population. Three main factors mentioned are the increase in the life expectancy, the increase in the number of children born, and the increase in the number of adult immigrants. The difference between the white and colored populations is doubtless due to the fact that these influences have been more potent among the whites than among the colored population.

**The Clan-na-Gael.**  
 TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—The SUN has given great prominence during the last few days to two men whom doubtless it supposes to be representative Irishmen; namely, Patrick Egan, former United States Minister to Chile, and Hugh J. Carroll, the ex-Mayor of Pawtucket, R. I.

Will you allow a Rhode Islander, who knows Carroll as he speaks, to say that this fellow Carroll announces his withdrawal from the Clan-na-Gael, and that he is not a member of it? He has been steadily and with the cowardly methods that characterize him making odious charges against certain men whom he has hated for many years, but he has not been able to get any of his charges proved. He has been steadily and with the cowardly methods that characterize him making odious charges against certain men whom he has hated for many years, but he has not been able to get any of his charges proved.

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## HOW THE DE HIRSCH FUNDS GROW.

More Than Ten Millions Spent Last Year to Aid Hills Fellow Jews.

The Jewish World publishes to-day a balance sheet of the accounts of the Jewish Colonization Association, the trust created by the late Baron de Hirsch with a donation of \$50,000,000 for the purpose of helping his coreligionists. Israel Zangwill recently challenged the administrators to produce their accounts and told the Jewish public what they were doing with the money.

The report shows that \$2,010,597.30 was spent, and that seven-eighths of this sum was obtained by interest and one-eighth by drawing on capital. The report shows that the Jewish Colonization Association has spent \$100,000,000 for the purpose of helping his coreligionists. Israel Zangwill recently challenged the administrators to produce their accounts and told the Jewish public what they were doing with the money.

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